

A  
PRACTICAL TREATISE  
ON THE  
HUMAN HAIR.

PRICE  
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# A PRACTICAL TREATISE

ON THE

## HUMAN HAIR,

Explaining its Nature and Growth—the Diseases to which it is liable, and the best Mode of Treatment; including copious Directions with regard to the surest Method of preserving that graceful ornament of Nature to the remotest period of Life.

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BY J. C. WALLER.

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## HUMAN HAIR.

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### CHAPTER I.

TRIFLING as this subject may appear at the first view, to those who regard personal appearance, THE HAIR will be found to be of paramount importance. It is even of more consequence than the teeth, as the latter are not seen except in conversation. In a picture, again, although the disposition of the hair is of the greatest moment, the teeth are but of secondary consideration; and I maintain that they are by no means so indispensable to “*distingué*” deportment as the hair.

The various colours, qualities, and textures of hair, of different nations, are highly remarkable. Hair of soft and beautiful texture, full, and of wavy curl, varying in colour from flaxen to chesnut brown, is the produce of Germany, and all northern Europe. Hair of the same texture, but of a dark brown, or black colour, is to be found in the south of France and Italy; while the Portuguese, Spanish, Turkish, or Greek hair, is very different, being straight, coarse, and unmanage-

able. Again, the hair of the Mongolians and American Indians is harsh, wiry, and thin. The South-Sea Islanders have the same description of hair as the natives of the south of France and Italy; while that of the Caffres and Africans in general has very much the appearance of wool.

To me the subject of THE HUMAN HAIR has been a source of great interest and amusement for the last sixteen years, though it is but recently that I have been induced (by the advice of many persons of distinction) to make public the result of my experience and observation. For this purpose I shall explain, in as concise terms as possible, the nature and growth of the hair, the cause of its different colours and qualities, its falling off, its turning grey, and the means to be used to preserve, as well as to recover it. Its becoming straight from being naturally curly; its curling of itself, without any apparent cause, after having been for years straight; the different diseases to which it is subject; and shall conclude by giving my opinion as to the treatment it should receive, both as regards children and adults; under which regimen, if strictly attended to by mothers, I feel convinced there will be very few bald or grey heads to be seen.

This may seem a bold assumption on my part, but as I ground my system on practical experience, and not theory alone, I hope to convince my readers of the truth of my allegations, and the justice of my conclusions. It may be said, with reason, that I am only a HAIR-CUTTER; true, but does not that very fact evince



the opportunities I must necessarily have had of daily observation and remark; and I think I shall be able to make it appear that those advantages have not been neglected. I trust I shall not be deemed arrogant when I state, that the causes of disease in the hair, and its necessary treatment, are very little known, even to the medical profession, at present; and that there are very few surgeons of thirty years practice whom I could not enlighten on the subject.

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## CHAPTER II.

### ON THE NATURE AND GROWTH OF THE HAIR.

THE hair is a fine, thread-like, elastic substance, tubulated and porous; it is also covered with a remarkable down, sloping upwards similar to the fibres of a feather. Those of the head, three or four of which will be found to originate together in the cellular membrane of the scalp, form a small cylindrical root, which is surrounded by a covering, or capsula, furnished with vessels and nerves, called a bulb. The root is also tubular, and contains the pulp, in which the hair is formed; it passes through the lower part of the bulb in order to enter the tube of the hair, into which it penetrates for a short distance, rarely passing the surface of the outer skin. At this point it is succeeded by a clear gelatinous fluid, or hair blood, flowing within the eighth part of an inch from the point, except immediately after the hair has been cut, when it may be

seen through a powerful microscope in a liquid state at the extreme points.

From the most strict and careful observation on the process of analyzation, the component parts of the hair appear to be as follows: 1. An animal substance, which constitutes the principal part. 2. A greyish green coloured oil, in proportion tolerably abundant. 3. A white concrete oil in small quantity. 4. Iron, the proportionate quantity of which is uncertain. There is also sulphate of lime, and rather a large quantity of sulphur. In dark hair there is a predominant portion of iron; and in light hair of sulphur and lime. In *extremely* light hair, there is also discoverable a slight portion of phosphate of magnesia. Thus the hair varies from black to flaxen, according to the presence of iron in combination with sulphate of lime, or sulphur with sulphate of magnesia. White, or as it is commonly called grey, hair is simply the tube without the fluid or hair blood, the absence of which is at once the cause of its whiteness, and of its harsh and dry feeling.

The hair falls off the head, in larger or smaller quantities, according to the constitution of the person, every spring and autumn, and is supposed to change entirely once in four years; yet with such fertility does it grow, and with such difficulty is it eradicated when healthy, that I have seen it pulled out by the roots three successive times, and yet new hair has grown after each extraction. I have even seen, after the application of a depilatory (a mixture of orpiment and quick-lime), which, to appearance, destroys every vestige of the hair,

that it has grown stronger than before. I may refer to the opinion of Doctors Willan and Bateman, who, in cases of *porrigo* or *ringworm*, advise the use of the pitch cap, which always drags the hair out by the root; and yet there is not one case on record in which it has not grown again. Still, singular as it may appear, the growth of the hair does not depend upon the vital juices of the body, for it is well known that it will grow on the face and head after death; nay, more, I have myself taken hair from a skull, grown to a considerable length (subsequent to the decease of the subject) in a comparatively perfect state, both as regards the root and the tube, though the skull had been separated from the body by decomposition. This fact will substantiate the idea that the diseases and affections of the hair should be treated *locally*, and *not* constitutionally; indeed I am convinced that although the hair is predisposed to fall off the head, yet, if it be taken in time, with proper treatment, it can be effectually reproduced.

A most erroneous notion has been adopted by some eminent persons, that bald heads and grey hairs are hereditary. It is a pity such a belief should exist, as all those who are afflicted with baldness or grey hair think it useless to try to recover their fallen locks, or to restore them to their original colour. “Our parents were bald or grey” say they, “we shall be the same; nothing can avert the evil.” This argument, savouring so strongly of the errors of predestination, is at variance with fact, for, if applied to in time, I would engage to restore the hair of any person, though his or

her parents were ever so bald; but I admit that the hair once gone, no treatment whatever will ensure its return.

### CHAPTER III.

#### ON THE COLOUR OF THE HAIR.

THE colour of the hair in all its varieties is most singular. There are not only the different shades from black to white, but there are some mixtures having the most remarkable appearance, independently of what are usually called greys. For instance, black or brown and white hair sprinkled as it were together; brown and flaxen; brown, black, and red; light and dark brown; dark brown and black mingled in the same manner. Also dark hair spotted with flaxen, red, and white, in spots varying in size from a pea to a half-crown. But the most remarkable freak of nature that ever came under my observation was that of a lady, the exact half of whose head, with the eye-brow and eye-lash, were flaxen, while the other half, with the corresponding eye-brow and eye-lash, were black; this had a curious effect, giving the appearance of a defect in the left eye. The original colour of the hair was black, and the lady attributes the change to the use of deleterious oils, though, in my opinion, the real cause must have been fright, or some other violent mental excitement. The only effect that the application of oil has upon the colour of the hair is to make it for a time somewhat darker.

The unhappy Fauntleroy is another singular instance



of the effect of the mind upon the colour of the hair. He had scarcely been in confinement three months, when his hair changed from a rich dark brown to a colour almost white. The circumstance at the time was remarked by many of his friends.

The immediate cause of the hair turning white is an irregular and feeble circulation of blood in the vessels of the scalp, produced in some instances by the extraordinary excitement of the brain, which enfeebles its circulation. The *external pressure* of the hat or cap has also the same effect; and in this opinion I am supported by the late surgeon Brookes. It will be observed that where the hat presses in a line from the eye-brows to the back of the head over the ears, the hair always becomes grey first; and those who hunt, or who, from other causes, wear their hats for any length of time, are nearly certain to become prematurely grey.

I have already said that the *immediate* cause of the hair turning white, as well as falling off, is an enfeebled state of the muscles of the scalp; the *remote* cause of which I have explained. Now unfortunately the cause may be absent while the effect remains. The treatment should be the same as that which I recommend for weak hair (*see Chap. IV.*); except that it should be brushed at least three times a day.

A subject of speculation frequently amongst gentlemen has been the fact, that when the hair of the head, the upper part of the whiskers, and that which grows under the throat, is of a dark colour, the mustachios and lower part of the whiskers, with that which covers

the chin, are in ninety-nine cases out of a hundred, either red or sandy. Some have attributed this to the application of soap in shaving, others to exposure to the air, neither of which have any material effect on it; the real cause being the breath from the nostrils, which fact I discovered in the following curious manner. I was one day remarking to Captain Bayntun, of the 1st. Life Guards, that he was fortunate in having dark mustachios, and repeated my opinion as to the cause of so few persons being equally gifted. He remarked, that through a malformation of the cartilage of the nose, his breath never passed through the nostrils. But it may be said, why does not the breath from the mouth produce the same effect? The reason is, that it proceeds immediately from the face, while the breath from the nostrils bears directly down on the mustachios and beard. It is true there are many young men whose first growth of mustachios is dark, but it will be found that directly they begin to cut them they change colour.

## CHAPTER IV.

### ON THE DISEASES OF THE HAIR, AND THEIR TREATMENT.

INDEPENDENT of the annual shedding of the hair, which is the case more or less with every one, the first cause of the hair falling off is from a relaxed and enfeebled state of the muscles of the scalp, produced by excessive perspiration. Using a hard hair-brush frequently produces the same effect. The treatment of

this is simple if taken in time. The application of a *stimulating wash* would be all that is necessary to excite the dormant muscles to healthy action, and relieving it from dandriff, which has been by some erroneously called scurf, whereas it is merely the insensible perspiration, which in consequence of the weakness and languor of the vessels, encrusts on the skin instead of being thrown off in the usual way. After the application of the stimulating wash (night and morning) for about a fortnight, the hair resumes its former health and elasticity; and a small portion of restorative cream, or bear's grease, may be then used with advantage to beautify and enliven the appearance of it. I may as well here remark on the absurdity of the indiscriminate use of any particular nostrum for the hair. It would be equally consistent to apply one medicine to all disorders to which the human frame is subject. I do not mean to infer that such things as Bear's Grease, Macassar Oil, &c. are bad; they are all excellent as they are required. What I object to, is using either of these without regard to the state of the hair, like Morrison the hygeist, who declares that his pills will cure any complaint, from the tooth-ache to a broken leg; or as Matthews used to say, "from a corn to a consumption."

It is necessary the hair should be seen by a skilful practitioner that the proper remedy may be applied. The use of grease or oil in the above case would be exactly similar to giving a person with a weak stomach a quantity of rich and highly nourishing aliment, instead of first preparing the stomach to receive such food by the

use of tonics. I shall next notice the disease called *ptyriasis*. It is a minute disorder which forms itself at the roots of the hair, between the outer and inner skins of the scalp. This disease frequently succeeds fever or some cutaneous eruption, as measles; there is no external appearance of irritation, neither is there any *felt* by the patient, though an experienced person will soon discover the difference; and it requires prompter measures than the former. The head should be shaved without delay, and continued thrice a week for at least a month, washing it twice a day with Castile soap. The action of the razor relieves the complaint; it imperceptibly discharges through the pores of the skin, and the emollient qualities of the soap mainly assist in removing the disorder. The hair shoots up stronger and more healthy than before, and in many cases will curl naturally, though it was previously straight. A remarkable instance of this fact occurred at Southampton in the person of a young gentleman who was attacked by indisposition; prior to which his hair was thick and straight, which, during his illness, became thin and extremely stubborn. After shaving the head, the hair grew strong and curly, and continued so; which circumstance was the theme of much conversation among his friends, so great an alteration was it to his general appearance.

I shall now notice the disease called by medical writers *porrigo*, especially the three varieties, named *decalvans*, *scutulata*, and *favosa*.

The *first* often presents a disagreeable aspect. In some instances the hair comes off in a spot about the



size of a pea; the skin at this particular spot being extremely bald and white, similar to the head of a very old person. It gradually increases in size, until it nearly covers the head, and sometimes attacks the whiskers and beard, which has a most unpleasant appearance. At other times it covers the face and head in spots not larger than a pea, which increase in number, though not in size. Sometimes as many as nine or ten of these spots will be found in the space of half-a-crown: the eye-brows, whiskers, and beard, are attacked in the same manner, and a more disagreeable effect on the countenance cannot be imagined. Like the two former morbid affections, it has not the least external appearance of irritation, nor is there any pain or sensation attached to it: there is not the least appearance of hair on the spots, which are quite white and smooth. The head in this case should be shaved, not that the operation in itself does any direct good, but inasmuch as it enables you to apply the proper remedies with greater facility. The first symptom of the reappearance of the hair is a little bluish flush in the skin: at this time the shaving is of great use, accelerating the growth astonishingly. Among the best remedies I have found a weak preparation containing the tincture of cantharides and spirit of ammonia sheathed in a demulcent substance; washing the head before each application, which should be at least three times a day, with the strongest soap that can be procured. *Very* obstinate cases, however, will sometimes require the application of a blister. The first growth of hair on

the spots is quite white, but after it has been shaved several times it becomes the natural colour: at this period the application should be discontinued, and the shaving and washing repeated daily for a week or fortnight; after which time the hair may be allowed to grow, and a little restorative cream applied.

The *second* variety is what is commonly called RING-WORM. This is accompanied with an irruption on the skin, disagreeable to look at, but not very painful to the patient. In this case the hair may *not* be shaved at first, but cut close, which should be very carefully done, so that none of the short hair remain to irritate the disorder. The *unguentum hydrargyri nitratis* should be applied three times a day, and the head washed with strong soap, and continued till the disorder disappears. The hair should then be shaved, and it will soon recover itself.

The *third* variety is the disease called SCALD HEAD. This is much more virulent than either of the former, and requires much stronger remedies: it is found requisite in many cases of the disorder to pull the diseased hair out from the head to relieve the formation of pus at the root. An application made with *red precipitate* is very useful for this; and where there is much discharge an absorbent ointment, made with the “flowers” of zinc, sulphate of copper, and other astringents, are also recommended. Very frequent washing is most essential in all cases of porrigo, as it prevents the disorder spreading; and as they are acknowledged to be *contagious*, they cannot receive too

immediate attention. But this last variety is very rarely seen by our profession, as it is confined principally to the lower order of society, and its origin too frequently is doubtless dirt and filth.

There is another disease to which the hair is subject, called the *plica polonica*. The hair in this case becomes sensitive and inflamed to a certain degree, bleeds, and is clotted by a secretion of lymph, which coagulates into large deposits, being excessively irritating and painful to the patient. But as this disease rarely occurs in England, it being incidental to the more northern climates, as Norway, Sweden, and Denmark, and having seen only one case, I do not consider myself competent to give an opinion as to its origin, or necessary mode of treatment.

## CHAPTER V.

### ON THE TREATMENT HAIR SHOULD RECEIVE DURING INFANCY AND CHILDHOOD.

WITH infants the points of the hair should be cut at the age of seven or eight months; previously to which it would be needless, as the first growth of hair, which is mere down, always falls off about that time, and is succeeded by stronger hair. The head should also be washed daily from the birth with Castile soap, which has a particularly salutary effect upon the hair, giving it health and vigour, and rendering the skin beautifully soft. No comb of any kind should be used, but the hair arranged with a soft brush made of foreign goat's hair until the infant is about twelve months old,

at which period, night, as well as day, caps should be dispensed with. At this age, if the hair be washed once a week it will suffice; but it should continue to be cut certainly not less than once a month, and on no account to be allowed to grow too long. It looks certainly very pretty to see a fine little boy with long curly hair falling in luxuriant ringlets on his shoulders, or an interesting girl with her lovely hair in two long plaits *à-la-Suisse* hanging gracefully down her back; but I repeat that it is highly injurious, which will be seen at the age of one or two and twenty, at which time the hair will become thin and enervated. Hence it would be better for parents to brook the annoyance of seeing their children with a smaller portion of Nature's greatest ornament, to ensure its being thick and healthy when they become adults.

When the child has arrived at the age of three or four years a brush with long bristles, say one inch and a quarter, should supercede the use of the soft one, and on no account to use a hard brush or a small tooth-comb. The brush above described as regards the bristle, and about a No. 5 size, balloon shape, if used night and morning, will effectually cleanse any child's hair, be it ever so thick, until sixteen years of age, when a larger, but not a harder one, should be used. On no occasion whatever introduce what is commonly called a penetrating brush, that is one in which the bristles are of different lengths. The use of such is detrimental in the extreme to the hair, causing it to be rough, harsh, and poor.

The No. 5 brush above described cleans the hair most



completely, without irritating the skin. Washing the head once a week will keep it (the skin) sufficiently clean; and a little bear's grease or restorative cream should be used the day after washing.

In describing the above mode of treating the hair, I address myself particularly to parents; and if they would see it properly attended to at school, and in the nursery, they would have the satisfaction of seeing their offspring grow up with luxuriant heads of hair. Those who have bad hair may say what they please about their indifference to personal appearance, and the nonsense of paying so much attention to its arrangement; but I maintain that nothing looks so mean or plebeian as a poor and ragged head of hair, and that nothing gives so commanding an appearance, or so much expression to the countenance, as when care and good taste have been bestowed upon its culture and adjustment. While I am on the subject of children's hair I would recommend the utmost caution in the choice of a hair-cutter at school. Unfortunately, those who have the management of establishments in the country for the education of both sexes find it convenient to employ the nearest practitioner, who is in all probability no other than the village barber, who may, in one operation, spoil the shape of the hair for months. Many hair-cutters in our large and populous towns have had the benefit of London experience; I would therefore urge the propriety of employing *them*, if the vicinity of the school precludes the possibility of having a person from Town. What if there be a trifling (and

it would be but trifling) addition to the expense? The advantages would more than compensate, and the appearance of the head avoid the risk of sacrifice.

Many respectable establishments have adopted this plan, but still there are a few who adhere to the old system, much to their own discredit, and more to the disadvantage of those whose personal appearance, as well as mental improvement, should be their chief care.

## CHAPTER VI.

### A FEW HINTS TO GENTLEMEN ON THE MANAGEMENT OF THE HAIR, ETC.

IN the first place I would recommend gentlemen never to sleep with any covering on the head thicker than a silk net cap, which has the effect of keeping the hair in shape, without causing unnecessary *heat*, which, on all occasions, should be avoided as much as possible. Woollen night-caps are so fatally injurious, and are so little worn, that I scarcely need condemn them here. Sleeping *without* covering to the head at night, as well as being by no means a cleanly habit, disarranges the hair completely, throwing it into a wild and unmanageable state.

Cutting is the next in importance, which should be done at least once a fortnight. Frequent cutting has a two-fold good effect; in the first place it materially assists in strengthening and increasing the growth of the hair by drawing the nourishing qualities from the root into the tube; and, secondly, as the hair always appears the same, never having the appearance of recent cutting, it is least liable to be the subject of remark. A

small tooth-comb, or hard hair brush, should never be used: adopt a brush with long bristles, and let the hair be cleaned with it night and morning. This will not only improve the appearance, but it circulates the blood, and prevents its turning grey. Washing with Castile soap is most essential, and should, on no account, be omitted; the best time for washing the head is at night previously to retiring to rest, using a little bear's grease or restorative cream the following morning, which application should be ordinarily repeated twice a week. This should be effected by taking a small portion from the jar or bottle which contains it with the tip of one of the fingers, and rubbing it on the palm of the other hand; then introduce the fingers of both hands through the hair in every direction, and disperse it well by brushing. This will give an appearance of life and vigour to the hair without causing it to appear greasy. The comb to be used should be of tortoise-shell or ivory, which, in the end, will be found to be more economical than any other, as, with reasonable care, they will last ten times longer than horn, which drag and break the hair terribly. Leaden combs were introduced by the French for the purpose of giving a darkening hue to red or grey hair; a filthy practice, and one which cannot be too much condemned. This is simply a method of *soiling* the hair, while the ears, the forehead, and the neck, alike receive the benefit of the operation, ensuring to the patronizers of the Parisian leaden comb a resemblance to the miners of Cornwall. Should the hair become weak and languid, a *stimulating wash* should

be resorted to night and morning until it is recovered, which it is certain to be in a few days. The wash should be applied by rubbing it gently on the roots of the hair, the effect of which is rapid and certain.

The fashion of the hair must depend first on the countenance and shape of the head; secondly, on the colour and quality of the hair; and, lastly, on its quantity. It is impossible for one fashion to be adopted by every person. For instance, the present *à-la-Russe* suits those very well who have fine curly hair, such as Count D'Orsay, Mr. Cecil Forester, and a few others I could mention. But how badly does it look to see long straight hair protruding over the collar in unsightly masses; or imagine a person with a large head, small features, and slight figure, wearing a thick bushy head of hair. In the first place, it entirely clouds the countenance, imparting a dull heavy appearance; and from the preponderating size of the head is a most absurd picture; the very acmè of bad taste. Again, when the poll or back part of the head is very small, the hair dark, and the neck long, it should *never* be cut short behind, as it gives an excessively cold and mean appearance when the hat is worn, as well as looking bare and unfinished in full dress. In such instances the hair should be left just sufficiently long to comb easily right and left, if straight. When curly, the fashion *à-la-Russe* can be adopted with advantage.

In the arrangement of the hair, the study should be to draw a nice distinction between the mean sharp look attendant on the wearing of short hair, and the heavy



and slovenly appearance which accompanies the hair when worn too long; and as nothing is a more correct criterion of the gentleman than the hair, we cannot be too particular in its adjustment.

Extravagance of style, the extreme of a particular fashion, or anything over-precise or pedantic, should by all means be avoided, as it is an universally received adage in the higher circles, that nothing *particular* is *gentlemanly*. What is so plebeian as that vulgar extravagance of taste which characterize our neighbours the French? The only well dressing Frenchman I ever saw is Count D'Orsay, and even he is a *little* too outrée. The appearance of a French exquisite *à-l'-ordinaire* is the very height, or rather depth, of bad taste. Picture to yourself a man dressed in an ill cut coat, short waisted, and swallow tailed, very full trowsers, and boots long enough to put a clean shirt in the toe of each without inconvenience to the foot; a hat turned up on either side, and brought down in a peak front and back; the hair cut excessively short at the sides, and dressed *à-la-pyramide* at the top; his fingers covered with rings; his neck encircled with at least half a dozen chains; and, according to the mode of 1836, a stiff WHITE stock;—fancy such an article bowing, grinning, and gibbering to a lady, and there you see a French *petit maitre* of the first water. Extravagance in appearance, I repeat, should be carefully avoided. If the features be small, the hair must not be left too long about the face; if the back part of the head be small, and the ears project from the head, the hair must be left rather long be-

hind; if the face be broad, the hair must not be worn too long at the sides or at the ears. On the contrary, if the face be long, a moderate quantity should be worn at the ears, and slightly on part of the forehead. The whisker, if any, should be allowed to grow on the lower part of the face, as well as the upper. If the back part of the head be large, the hair must be cut short; and, above all, it is advisable to prevent its sticking out on either side of the head under the hat, which has a very slovenly appearance; the style of the hair should be easy, natural, and therefore becoming. I repeat, any thing *outrée* is decidedly ungentlemanly, and feel convinced, that travel the world over, we shall find that the Englishman alone looks the gentleman; and, in my humble opinion, the true characteristic of gentility is neatness.

## CHAPTER VII.

I SHALL now, with the greatest possible respect, offer a few remarks relative to ladies' hair.

In the first place, I must beg leave to enter my protest against a practice which almost all ladies have adopted; I mean that of using hard hair brushes: they do not clean the hair effectually, and they tear and break it. I will explain why the long hair brushes cleanse the hair better, and with greater expedition than the short ones. The process by which the hair is cleaned is, that the brush, in passing repeatedly through the hair, becomes clean, and the brush dirty. Now such being the case, does it not stand to reason, that the longer the bristle is, the greater space there

must necessarily be to receive the soil from the hair? and that the more quickly the hair is cleaned, the less danger is there of tearing or breaking it? I am aware I shall find a difficulty in making my fair readers think as I do, but all I ask is one month's trial with soft brushes; after which, if they do not confess that their hair is cleaner, less harsh, and altogether in better condition than when they used the harder brushes, I will forfeit my credit. I mention the subject of brushes first, as I conceive it to be of the greatest importance.

In combing the hair out, the lady's-maid should be extremely particular in commencing at the points, and proceed gradually; disentangling it toward the roots, and invariably using the coarse side of the comb for this purpose. The back hair should be combed perfectly clear before it is untied. It should then be divided into small pieces, and brushed from root to point. When it is finished, it should be carefully put up with a strong twist comb, and the front hair combed and brushed in a similar manner. Then proceed to papering; to do which properly, the hair should be divided into small even portions, and papered in flat curls, commencing at the points, and rolling it upwards towards the roots. The curl should be then held in the left hand, and the paper placed under the curl with the right. It should be then neatly folded over the curl, bringing it as near the head as possible, and secured by twisting the ends of the paper.

Curling the hair by means of rolling the points into the folds of a piece of paper, and then twisting it round

until it reaches the head, and screwing the ends together to fasten them, is decidedly bad, as it cramps the hair, and renders the points frizzy and difficult to comb. Let the hair be dressed as near as possible to the prevailing fashion by all means, so long as it is becoming to the countenance, but do not let the vulgar extravagance of the French predominate, so as to annihilate the chaste elegance of our lovely countrywomen.

If the face be oval, and the neck moderately long, ringlets are most becoming; if the neck be *very* long, a ringlet behind the ear is of consequence. Again, the light frizzed curls appear much in character with small features, dressed high and forward on the forehead. As regards the back hair that must depend very much on the stature and shape of the head. Plaits are very generally becoming, and are much worn at present. Bows interspersed with plaits have a very good effect, and should be dressed high or broad, narrow or low, according to the face and figure.

In choice of ornaments for evening dress, single flowers are worn with best effect, in the colours of which it is necessary to be very particular. Avoid their being too glaring; the more quiet the colours, the more genteel. Above all do not make use of too many. Gold with pearl becomes a dark complexion best; for a fair person blue and silver, or very pale green. But in choice of ornament for the hair, the dress must also be considered; each must harmonize with the other, or the effect of the whole will be spoiled.

In respect to jewels, diamonds or rubies should never



be worn by a fair person, but pearls, topazes, or amethysts. For a dark complexion diamonds, rubies, or emeralds; but as, with flowers, avoid profusion. Mixed jewels, in my humble opinion, never look well. For court, nothing appears better for a blonde, than pearls with ostrich feathers tipped with blue; except where the figure is diminutive, when marabout feathers should supersede ostrich. Brunettes alone can wear brilliants with good effect; and (for court), with every person the hair should be invariably dressed as simply as possible.

For evening dress, with dark complexion, possessing a moderately high forehead, a narrow gold band, with brilliant clasp, to encircle the head, is becoming: a silver band, with pearl clasp, would be more suitable to fairer persons. But whether it be for court or otherwise, neatness and that which is becoming cannot be too attentively studied. The hair may be well dressed, and the costume well executed; but if they are not in accordance with each other, the effect is entirely lost. Let the material of the dress be as costly as you please; let the jewels be of the first quality; but let the former be made up with due regard to the proportions of the figure, and the latter arranged without the appearance of profusion. The whole must harmonize, and the result will present the characteristics of splendid taste and high fashion—neatness without plainness, and elegance without extravagance.

(END OF THE TREATISE ON THE HUMAN HAIR.)

## A FEW WORDS ON THE SUBJECT OF FRENCH FASHIONS.

I AM fully sensible of the difficulty of the task I have undertaken in attempting to question French taste in fashionable matters. So rooted is our national, or rather anti-national, predilection in favour of Parisian fashions and artists, and so naturally does the fashionable world look to the *Petit Courrier des Dames* for specimens of inventive taste in personal fashions, that we have been accustomed to adopt whatever is contained therein as immaculate, and not to be disputed for an instant; regarding it with the same veneration as the Mahomedans do the Alcoran. However inconsistent with true taste or elegance of style, it emanates from the French, and therefore must be right.

But to proceed with my task. I find fault with French fashions, first, for their general extravagance of style; secondly, for their vulgarity; and, lastly, for their absurdity in adapting one fashion to every person, however different the face, figure, or complexion. One fashion is invented by Monsieur, and all must adopt it. In this position am I placed with my fair readers, of whom I entreat a candid and impartial judgment. It may, and doubtless will, be remarked by many persons that it is a mere folly and waste of

time to oppose the proceedings of society at large. I grant that it is indeed almost a hopeless case; but I am encouraged in this instance by my own conviction, that in these things the French are not in reality superior to the English; that the fashions alluded to are not suitable to the English character; and that our extraordinary attachment to every thing foreign not only subjects us to impositions and deceptions of every description (such as English lace being taken to the French ports to be smuggled back again as French),—but through this, it actually causes us to be the laughing stock of the whole of the European continent. The leading fault with the French is their extravagance of style; with them every thing is caricatured. But to bring the subject more immediately in view:—imagine the hair dressed *à la Chinoise*; the dress made to fit the bust with precision; the skirt full, and sufficiently short to expose the leg midway above the ancle (a fashion very generally adopted about two years since); a French hat of the most gaudy colours, placed on the upper part of the head, rather on one side; and sleeves *en gigôt*. Is not the absurd picture obvious? How would my fair readers complain if nature had made their arms the size and shape of their sleeves, or if their delicately formed persons were of the same rotundity as when, by the adoption of the substantial *tournure*, they emulate the unenviable proportions of the Hottentot Venus.

I remember drawing the attention of a country friend to a French woman dressed in a similar manner,

(with the usual tottering gait of her nation), who was crossing St. James's-street. He remarked that had he seen her in a Lunatic Asylum he should have said, "poor soul, I dare say she considers herself immensely fine:"—yet such is the extravagant style of the French fashions generally, and such would they appear to every one, if judged impartially.

Secondly, on their vulgarity, not to say gross indelicacy: again observe the fashion above quoted. Imagine a beautiful and elegantly formed English girl, accompanied by that pearl of great price, no where to be found on the Continent, I mean modesty, attired in the manner described at the Opera or an Assembly; was a greater disfigurement ever seen? To me it is the most painful object imaginable. Could this be witnessed by one who lived in those good times when we took cities, towns, and warlike stores from the French, instead of their follies and fashions, how would he wonder, how would he deprecate, the fashion which stares modesty out of countenance, and in her place substitutes the vulgar and brazen impudence of the French; how would he lament that God's image should be so deformed by art; how unlike the chaste elegance of the English taste! how immeasurably inferior to the magnificence and delicacy of the English court dress! Does not the discrepancy appear clear as light? Yet such is actually the difference between the two styles of fashion.

With regard to ladies' hair-dressing, with which, of course, I am most familiar; the French *coiffeur* dresses



hair in a particular fashion, whether his customer be short, tall, stout, or slim; whether the features be small and delicate, or strongly marked; it is all the same to him. If all the world were alike in person, this method might do, but not until then. Now the Englishman adopts the fashion to those on whom he is attending; he is not content that the hair alone should look well, but that it shall harmonize with the face and figure. In observing a head dressed by a Frenchman, you remark that the hair is dressed tolerably well, but you cannot help looking at the head-dress, and the person, as two distinct affairs, so regardless are they of what they themselves call the *tout ensemble*. Again, a Frenchman cannot dress hair unless he has his own way entirely, as exemplified in the following instance. A lady, on whom we did, and still have the honour to attend, was desirous of having her hair dressed by a Frenchman one evening. Having sent for Monsieur, she requested him to dress it in the Madonna style; but as it had been previously dressed in ringlets, he said this could not be done without cutting a considerable portion away. This was objected to, as the hair was only required to be dressed in that style for one evening, which the bungler could not do without cutting; and he was ultimately suffered to do so. What was the consequence?—a beautiful head of hair was spoiled for at least six months. Now an Englishman, in the same position, would have dressed the hair without cutting, and the difference would not have been perceived. No, if a French *coiffeur* cannot do as

he pleases with your hair, he is the most stupid person imaginable. Such is the difference between French and English hair-dressers, and such are the French fashions generally; yet such, my fair readers, you advocate daily. Neither are the indiscriminate adoption of French fashions, and the encouragement of French artists to the detriment of the English, the only evils. Through the mania for every thing French in the fashionable world, you are liable to every species of imposition and overcharge. I will give you two remarkable instances of this fact. The one is of a youth about eighteen years of age, who went to Paris a few seasons back to practise hair-dressing. During his stay at a certain *coiffeur's* not far from the Hotel de Meurice, he was sent to wait on an English lady, his employer remarking he was quite good enough to attend on “*une Anglaise.*” The youth waited on her, and delighted her excessively with the great taste he displayed in dressing her hair. He subsequently returned to England, and resumed the practice of his profession. By chance he was sent for in London to attend the same lady he had dressed in Paris, who found great fault with his dressing here, and not only told him that hair could not be dressed but by a Frenchman, but recommended him to go to Paris to learn his profession.

Again, a certain French *coiffeur*, now practising in London, went to an English hair-dresser when a poor boy; in fact, in a state of utter destitution; and knowing no trade whatever, he asked charity. He was received into the house, clothed, fed, and his profession

taught him. He staid with his benefactor until he knew his business but imperfectly; and while he was still only a third-rate hand, commenced business on his own account, solicited all he knew of his excellent master's customers, and is now a man of property. Thus is a man taught by an Englishman, and although considered by him an inferior hand, he is encouraged, sought after, and enriched by our nobility. Because he was talented in his profession? No. Because he had great natural taste? Nothing of the kind; simply, because he was a Frenchman. *O tempora! O mores!*

I cannot dismiss this part of the subject without remarking on a most impertinent falsehood that was inserted by a Frenchman a short time since in the "Court Journal," in which he stated that the charges of the English hair-dressers were more than those of the French. In contradiction to this, I quote the following prices, by which the wilful misrepresentation will be seen. The charges of Truefitt, Nisbett, and myself, are 2*s.* 6*d.* and 3*s.* 6*d.* on ordinary occasions, except we have to go a great distance. On court days the charge is 10*s.* 6*d.*, while those of Adrien, Duprée, and Isidore (hair-dresser to her Majesty), vary from 5*s.* upwards; on court days their charge being from one to two guineas. Startling as these facts may appear, they are strictly true. We happen to know the parties, and were, in some measure, eye-witnesses to the circumstances alluded to. Some may think us violent. We answer, though the truth, it is said, should not be

always spoken, it is by us at present “ more in sorrow than in anger;” and when dozens of respectable young men, assistants in our profession, are out of situations, who, were it not for the unhappy circumstances above quoted, would be in the receipt of from two to three guineas per week, and, as it is, are seen applying in vain daily for employment,—pointed at, and insulted by those very persons elsewhere alluded to,—it is sufficient to cause the ire of any person situated as we are. As deeds, however, and not words, are now the order of the day; as the French have their *Petit Courrier des Dames*, so will the English, if I mistake not, have, at an early period, their Magazine of Fashion, which will be brought out in a style superior to any thing of the kind ever yet produced, either in Paris or in London. All we ask, is a fair and unbiassed judgment on the merits of the production, and to patronize it and us if found deserving; and, in conclusion, if we, setting aside prejudice, be not found superior to the French, we will consent, for the future, to bear the stigma of inferiority without a murmur.



## A FEW REMARKS ON CHEAP PERFUMERY, &c.

I CANNOT close this little affair without noticing slightly an impudent, and, as regards the public, a most iniquitous system of foisting on them what is called cheap perfumery, combs, brushes, &c. Now, as this shameless imposture in some measure affects the respectability of the profession, of which I am a member, I will endeavour to expose this most nefarious traffic, giving my readers an opportunity of judging for themselves.

To commence with brown Windsor soap, an article always in general request. A certain house, not far from the Strand, advertises this soap at 1s. 4d. per pound. I must confess that I was at first startled at this very low price; but, on sending for a packet, I found that the weight of the six squares, which should be sixteen ounces, was but *ten*, thus cheating their customers of *six ounces* out of *every pound* they purchase; while the circumstance of the articles being manufactured of the most rank and impure alkalies, the commonest and almost putrid fats, and perfumed with a cheap and strong essential oil (cassia), renders it one of the most deleterious compositions that can be used.

This soap, composed of the coarsest, and therefore cheapest materials, and of which such short weight

is given, must be considerably more profitable than that manufactured by Atkinson, Delcroix, or Low, and sold by respectable perfumers at 2s. 6d. per pound. Neither is *cheating* the public the only evil that attends this species of imposture. This (so called) soap, from the impure and rancid qualities of its composition, is seriously injurious to the skin, causing it at times to throb and smart violently, and, in some instances, actually producing excoriation.

The next I allude to is lavender water, which is offered for sale at 2s. per half-pint. On examination, this will be found to be distilled singly from the *stems* instead of the *flowers* of lavender; and to give it a description of artificial strength, the assistance of *aqua-fortis* is resorted to, which is well known to be certain and speedy destruction to the handkerchief, or whatever article of linen or silk it may touch. This stuff must also be a source of great profit to the manufacturer, as, in calculating the cost of the materials, I find it returns *at least* one hundred per cent.

The cheap *Eau de Cologne* is effected after the same fashion, only that the imposition is carried on to a much greater extent. This article is retailed at 1s. 6d., per bottle, and is chiefly manufactured by Jews. Now, the cost of the genuine Eau de Cologne at the factory is two francs, or 1s. 8d. per bottle. The duty on the same is 1s., thus making it 2s. 8d. per bottle; add to which the freight from Cologne to England, and the risk of breakage. These facts are not only well known to the vendor, but also to every

person who has been to Cologne and visited Farina's manufactory. To such an extent is the sale of spurious *Eau de Cologne* carried, that there are not, at the present time, more than half a dozen houses at the west end of the metropolis where the genuine article can be obtained. Atkinson, Truefitt, and myself, import it; but there are few others who take the trouble to do the same.

Last, though not least, I mention cheap hair-brushes and combs. The former, sold at the aforesaid wholesale trash establishments, price *one shilling* each, are no less than refuse bristles; and instead of genuine mahogany, satin, or rose-wood backs, they are painted and varnished in imitation. I discovered this in the following manner. A working brush-maker called on me a few days since, and offered me very tolerable-looking brushes at 5s. 6d. per dozen, but, on examination, I found them as described; made of the worst possible materials; painted and varnished in order to induce the unwary to purchase. I am convinced the first time these brushes are washed, they will literally fall to pieces. On asking why such trash should be manufactured, he said he made them to supply the bazaars and lounges, and that he had a great sale for them.

In tortoiseshell combs the public are liable to still greater imposition, inasmuch as the knavery cannot be discovered until the purchase is made. These kind of things, sold only at bazaars and similar places, are, in fact, *broken combs*, the fragments of which are

joined together by the process of melting. This is so effected, that the most experienced eye may be deceived; but the least resistance that they meet with, either in combing the head, or otherwise, they will snap like glass. Most respectable shops have, through this system of knavery, taken to purchasing tortoiseshell in the rough state, and get it made up by clever working comb-makers. It will be seen from this statement, that although the vendors of these cheap articles ask a very low price, they achieve a most unconscionable profit; and through this disreputable mode of doing business, frequently cause the fair tradesman, who makes a good article, and charges a fair profit, to be insulted, by being offered a lower price; his customers remarking, that they can get them at that cost at the bazaars. Granted; but all things find their level; so I hope will this system, and trust that this exposure will hasten it; for that such dealing should be speedily put an end to, is a consummation devoutly to be wished by all parties but the knaves whose robberies I have pointed out in this little publication.

THE END.



b/n Nov/92





